

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02879 01 OF 02 161527Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----161553Z 093975 /41

R 161350Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4316
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 2879

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINS LE PLO SY
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON AND INTERNAL LEBANESE SITUATION:
CONVERSATION WITH DRUZE LEADER WALID JUNBLATT

REF: BEIRUT 2852

1. SUMMARY: WALID JUNBLATT CALLS ON AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS CONCERN AND SEEK REASSURANCE ABOUT SOUTH LEBANON. INDICATES HE COOPERATING WITH REJECTIONISTS AS MATTER OF NECESSITY RATHER THAN PREFERENCE. SAYS HE WANTS TO RESTORE MARONITE-DRUZE COEXISTENCE IN SHOUF AND MATN AND READY TURN PERPETRATORS OF SHOUF MASSACRES OVER TO AUTHORITIES. HE WILL BE SEEKING SAUDI FINANCING TO PAY BLOOD MONEY. EXPRESSES DISTRUST OF SYRIANS BUT PLANS SEE ASAD IN DAMASCUS NEXT WEEK.
2. DRUZE LEADER WALID JUNBLATT CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST MORNING JUNE 16. ALTHOUGH WE TOOK AWHILE TO GET
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02879 01 OF 02 161527Z

AROUND TO POINT, PURPOSE OF CALL WAS TO GET ASSESSMENT AND ASSURANCES REGARDING ISRAELI INTENTIONS TOWARD SOUTH LEBANON. HE SAID THAT IDEA ISRAELIS AND CHRISTIANS WERE GOING TO MOVE TOWARD PARTITION OF LEBANON AND CREATE CHRISTIAN STATE WAS WIDESPREAD. ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON WAS TO BE FIRST STEP IN PLAN. THERE WERE TOO MANY

REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT TO BE IGNORED.

3. I SAID WE HAD OF COURSE HEARD SAME REPORTS AND I WAS CERTAIN THERE WERE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE WHO THOUGHT IN SUCH TERMS. OBJECTIVELY, HOWEVER, I THOUGHT THERE WAS LITTLE FOUNDATION FOR THE REPORTS. THERE HAD BEEN INCREASE IN ARTILLERY EXCHANGES ALONG SOUTH LEBANESE BORDER AND THERE HAS BEEN INCREASE IN ISRAELI PATROL ACTIVITY IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT ARTILLERY FIRING SEEMED TO BE RESULT OF PALESTINIAN PROVOCATIONS AGAINST LEBANESE FORCES AND THERE NO SIGN OF ISRAELI CONCENTRATION OF FORCES OR OTHER INDICATION THEY PLANNING TO MOVE AGAINST SOUTH LEBANON. WE HAD MADE OUR OWN OPPOSITION TO SUCH A MOVE CLEAR IN THE PAST, AND I THOUGHT ISRAELIS UNDER NO MISAPPREHENSION AS TO OUR POLICY IN THAT REGARD.

4. JUNBLATT SAID THAT SITUATION IN SOUTH WAS TRAGIC. PALESTINIANS EVIDENTLY WANTED TO CONTROL AREA AND LEBANESE HAD NO CAPABILITY OF DOING SO. PROGRESSIVE PARTIES SUCH AS HIS OWN WERE COOPERATING WITH PALESTINIANS BECAUSE THEY HAD TO, NOT BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO. DRUZE NEEDED PALESTINIAN SUPPORT AGAINST MARONITES. HE THOUGHT PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON INEVITABLE, BUT HE DID NOT THINK THAT GAVE PALESTINIANS RIGHT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN EVERYTHING. PALESTINIANS, HOWEVER, SAW THINGS DIFFERENTLY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02879 01 OF 02 161527Z

5. I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD HEARD REPORT THAT PLO HAD AGREED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO ACCORD IN LEBANON NORTH OF LITANI BUT WAS MOVING WEAPONS SOUTH OF LITANI AND WAS REFUSING APPLICATION OF ACCORD THERE. HE SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD THIS REPORT. HE SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT PALESTINIANS APPARENTLY PLAN TO STAY IN SOUTH LEBANON, AND SOUTH LEBANESE WERE LEAVING IN GREAT NUMBERS. IT WAS PERHAPS BETTER TO AT LEAST HAVE LEBANESE FROM THE PROGRESSIVE PARTIES CONTROLLING SOME OF THE VILLAGES RATHER THAN ABANDONING ALL OF THEM TO THE PALESTINIANS.

6. I SAID THAT IF SOUTH LEBANON CAME TOTALLY UNDER PALESTINIAN CONTROL, RISK OF CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL WOULD BE GREATLY INCREASED. I HOPED THAT WOULD NOT COME TO PASS.

7. TURNING TO INTERNAL SITUATION, I NOTED HIS

REMARK ABOUT DRUZE NEED FOR PROTECTION AGAINST MARONITES. WE UNDERSTOOD ANIMOSITIES ARISING FROM KILLING OF CHRISTIANS IN SHOUF AFTER HIS FATHER'S ASSASSINATION WERE VERY DEEP. THIS WAS VERY UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE DRUZE-MARONITE COEXISTENCE HAD BEEN ONE OF BUILDING BLOCKS OF LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE. JUNBLATT SAID HE AGREED AND HE WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO RESTORE THAT COEXISTENCE IN THE SHOUF AND THE MATN. HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SAMI KHATIB OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCE AND WAS PREPARED TO TURN OVER PEOPLE GUILTY OF MASSACRES. HE WAS EVEN WILLING TO PAY BLOOD MONEY

NOTE BY OC/T; NOT PASSED USCINCEUR.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02879 02 OF 02 161550Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----161557Z 094388 /41

R 161350Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4317
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 2879

EXDIS

BUT HAD NO FUNDS WITH WHICH TO DO IT. HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO GET SOME HELP IN THIS RESPECT FROM SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE HE PLANNED TO GO ON A VISIT SOON. HE THOUGHT ONE MILLION LEBANESE POUNDS WOULD DO THE TRICK. HE WAS INTERESTED IN A RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE MARONITES BUT HAD GOTTEN NO RESPONSE FROM THEM. HE HAD TOLD AMIN GEMAYEL HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE GUARANTEE FOR DRUZE BEHAVIOR BUT WANTED GUARANTEE FROM THE MARONITES IN EXCHANGE. MARONITIES HAD NOT REPLIED.

8. I ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING HE WANTED US TO DO IN THIS RESPECT AND HE SAID WE MIGHT REITERATE

TO THE MARONITES THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING WITH THEM. I SAID THAT DURING OUR LAST CONVERSATION HE HAD SAID HE WAS UNWILLING TO TALK TO CHAMOUN BECAUSE LATTER HAD GONE TOO FAR. WAS THAT STILL THE CASE? JUNBLATT SHRUGGED AND SAID HE WOULD PREFER TO TALK TO THE KATAEB. I THEN ASKED HIM ABOUT CONTACTS WITH THE TANZIM, AND HE SAID IT HAD BEEN A CREATION OF G-2 AND HE WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02879 02 OF 02 161550Z

RATHER NOT DEAL WITH IT. I SAID I HAD MENTIONED SUBJECT BECAUSE THE TANZIM HAD INDICATED TO US THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TALKING TO JUNBLATT, AND WE SIMPLY PASSING INFORMATION TO HIM FOR WHATEVER USE HE WANTED TO MAKE OF IT.

9. I NOTED JUNBLATT HAD BEEN TO SYRIA AND SAID THAT MUST HAVE TAKEN GOOD DEAL OF COURAGE ON HIS PART. HE SAID HE HAD GONE WITH DELEGATION BUT HOPED TO RETURN ALONE NEXT WEEK FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH ASAD TO FIND OUT WHAT SYRIANS WANTED IN LEBANON. KHADDAM HAD COME OUT FLATLY AND ASKED DELEGATION WHEY THEY DID NOT OPT FOR UNIFICATION WITH SYRIA. UNIFICATION OF COURSE WAS NOT IN INTEREST OF DRUZE, WHO DID NOT WANT TO BE UNDER DOMINATION OF GOVERNMENT LIKE SYRIA'S. THEY PREFER INDEPENDENT LEBANON. I NOTED THAT THEY HAD COMMON INTEREST IN THIS RESPECT WITH MARONITES. JUNBLATT COMMENTED THAT MARONITES, HOWEVER, WERE STILL TALKING IN TERMS OF STATE IN WHICH THEY WOULD BE DOMINANT. DRUZE WANTED STATE IN WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS. THERE WAS AN IMBALANCE TODAY.

10. JUNBLATT SAID THE SO-CALLED "BROAD NATIONAL FRONT" WAS A SYRIAN INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO BRING ALL THE PARTIES UNDER SYRIAN CONTROL. I DOUBTED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO DO SO.

11. I ASKED WHAT HIS VIEW WAS OF THE JANUARY 22ND CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN FORMULATED BY FRANGIE AND THE SYRIANS LAST YEAR AND WHICH THE LATTER NOW SEEMED TO BE PUSHING AS THE BASIS FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON. HE SAID THIS DOCUMENT WAS STILL BASED ON THE CONFESSIONAL STATE. IT STILL SPECIFIED THAT THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02879 02 OF 02 161550Z

PRESIDENT WOULD BE A MARONITE, THE PRIME MINISTER A SUNNI, ETC. A MORE PROGRESSIVE ARRANGEMENT WAS NEEDED. LET EVERYONE AT LEAST HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR THE PRESIDENT AND LET HIM BE ELECTED BY POPULAR SUFFRAGE.

12. ON THE WAY DOWN IN THE ELEVATOR WE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF MY GOING TO LUNCH AT HIS FAMILY RESIDENT IN MUKHTARA. HE SAID HE LIKED MUKHTARA BUT HE WAS TROUBLED BY FACT THAT HE HAD TO PASS THROUGH SEVEN SYRIAN BLOCKADES TO GET THERE.

13. COMMENT: IT IS INDICATIVE OF LOCAL CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ON THE ONE HAND AND OF WALID'S NEW DEPARTURE ON THE OTHER THAT HE WOULD MAKE SUCH A CALL ON THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. HIS FATHER WOULD NOT HAVE DONE SO AND WOULD HAVE SENT AN INTERMEDIARY SUGGESTING THAT I CALL ON HIM, WHICH I WOULD HAVE DONE. THERE ARE THREE POINTS OF NOTE IN OUR CONVERSATION. FIRST IS JUNBLATT'S UNHAPPINESS WITH SITUATION IN THE SOUTH, WHERE HIS OWN FOLLOWERS ARE COOPERATING WITH THE REJECTIONISTS. SECOND IS HIS INTEREST IN RECONCILIATION WITH MARONITIES, WHICH IS POTENTIALLY VERY IMPORTANT MOVE. THIRD IS CONSTANT JUNBLATTI THEME OF DISTRUST OF SYRIANS.

14. ABOVE HIGHLIGHTS, IN MY VIEW, NEED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH ISRAELIS ABOUT SITUATION IN THE SOUTH.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT02879
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS,FMACHAK 25X6
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770215-0392
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706112/ddyeiaaa.tel
Line Count: 255
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 87239e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 2852
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2014281
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 20010601; <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20010914
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON AND INTERNAL LEBANESE SITUATION: CONVERSATION WITH DRUZE LEADER WALID JUNBLATT
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PBOR, SY, LE, IS, PLO, (JUMBLATT, WALID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/87239e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009